The Ozark Ambassador

National Weather Service Forecast Office
Springfield, Missouri

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Spring Edition

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Inside this Issue:

Spring Weather Websites

NWS Springfield Daily Weather Story
www.weather.gov/sgf/weatherstory

NWS Springfield Situation Report
www.weather.gov/sgf/sitrep

NWS Springfield Severe Weather Page
www.weather.gov/sgf/embrief

Storm Prediction Center
www.spc.noaa.gov

Severe Weather Awareness Week

The National Weather Service (NWS) along with the Missouri State Emergency Management Agency and the Kansas Division of Emergency Management has designated the week of March 4th through March 10th as Severe Weather Awareness Week 2018 in Missouri and Kansas. We urge people and businesses to use this time to review the severe weather hazards and safety rules of severe weather season so they are prepared for the upcoming Spring season. Daily severe weather topics, preparedness tips, and safety messages will be provide during the week. For more information, visit http://www.weather.gov/sgf/severeweatherweek

The State Emergency Management Agency and the National Weather Service (NWS) will conduct an Annual Severe Weather Tornado Drill at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, March 6th, 2018. Every school, citizen, and business are encouraged to participate in the drill.

NWS Springfield will issue a test tornado warning as part of the drill. Local warning sirens, NOAA All-Hazards Weather Radio, and the Emergency Alert System (EAS) will be activated to signal the start of the drill. The "TOR" code for EAS and NOAA Weather Radio will be used again this year to simulate what would occur in the event of an actual tornado warning.

Residents and businesses should treat the drill as if it were an actual tornado warning. The purpose of the drill is to test everyone's readiness for life-threatening severe weather events such as tornadoes, flash floods, and damaging winds. Local officials may sound warning sirens to initiate the drill.

Severe Thunderstorm Risk Categories

The Storm Prediction Center issues Day 1, Day 2, and Day 3 Convective Outlooks that depict non-severe thunderstorm areas and severe thunderstorm threats across the contiguous United States, along with a text narrative.

The categorical forecast specifies the level of the overall severe weather threat via numbers (e.g., 5), descriptive labeling (e.g., HIGH), and colors (e.g., magenta). The probabilistic forecast directly expresses the best estimate of a severe weather event occurring within 25 miles of a point. The text narrative begins with a listing of severe thunderstorm risk areas by state and/or geographic region. This is followed by a concise, plain-language summary of the type(s) of threat along with timing that is focused on the highest-risk areas. Additional sections of the discussion are usually separated by geographic areas. Within these individual geographic areas, the text offers meteorological reasoning and justification for the type of coverage and intensity attendant to the severe weather threat. The Storm Prediction Center also issues a Day 4-8 Severe Weather Outlook that similarly depicts severe thunderstorm threats across the contiguous United States and contains a technical discussion.

Severe Thunderstorm Definition

A severe thunderstorm refers to a thunderstorm producing hail that is at least 1 inch in diameter or larger, and/or wind gusts of 58 mph or greater, and/or a tornado. Although lightning can be deadly, the NWS doesn't use it to define a severe thunderstorm. If it did, every thunderstorm would be severe, by definition.

Watch

Watches are issued when conditions are favorable for a severe weather event. When a Watch is in effect for your area, you should begin preparing for any actions you may need to take should the severe weather event occur.

Warning

Warnings are issued when a severe weather event is occurring or is imminent. If a Warning is issued for your area immediately take action. If it is a Flood Warning, get to higher ground. If it is a Tornado Warning, get to the lowest point in your home.

THUNDERSTORMS (no label)	1 - MARGINAL (MRGL)	2 - SLIGHT (SLGT)	3 - ENHANCED (ENH)	4 - MODERATE (MDT)	5 - HIGH (HIGH)
No severe* thunderstorms expected	**Isolated severe thunderstorms possible**	**Scattered severe storms possible**	**Numerous severe storms possible**	**Widespread severe storms likely**	**Widespread severe storms expected**
Lightning/flooding threats exist with all thunderstorms	Limited in duration and/or coverage and/or intensity	Short-lived and/or not widespread, isolated intense storms possible	More persistent and/or widespread, a few intense	Long-lived, widespread and intense	Long-lived, very widespread and particularly intense

Understanding Severe Weather Hazards

Tornado

Tornadoes are violently rotating columns of air that can destroy buildings and cause significant injury or death

ACTION: Take shelter immediately in a sturdy structure

Large Hail

Hail can damage vehicles, crops, buildings, and cause injuries

ACTION: Move indoors away from windows

Strong Wind

Strong wind can knock over trees and damage buildings

ACTION: Move indoors away from windows

Heavy Rain

Heavy rain can cause flash flooding

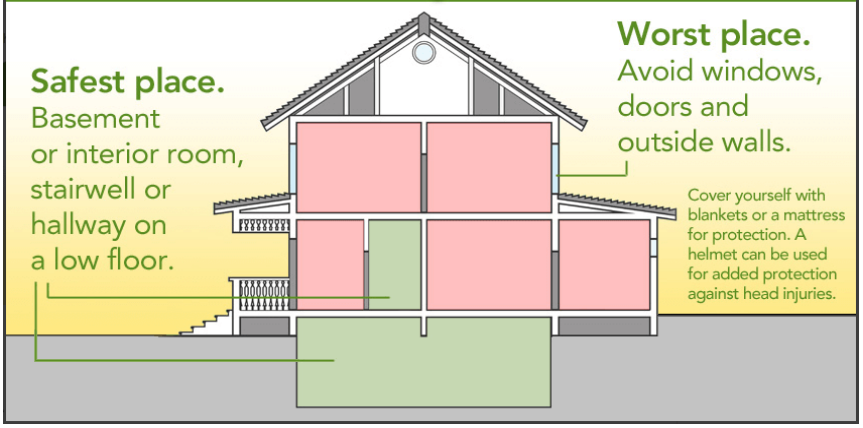
ACTION: Avoid rising creeks and water-covered roads

Lightning

Lightning strikes can cause significant injury or death

ACTION: Move indoors if you hear thunder

Tornado Shelter Tips

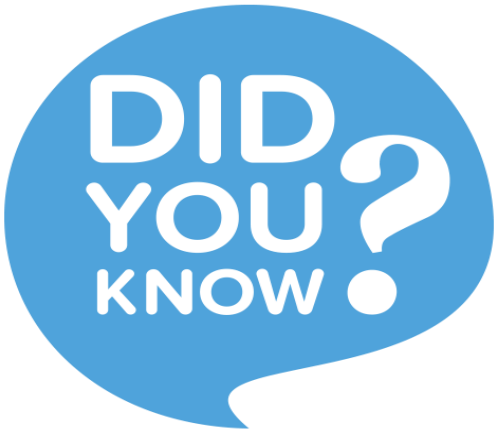


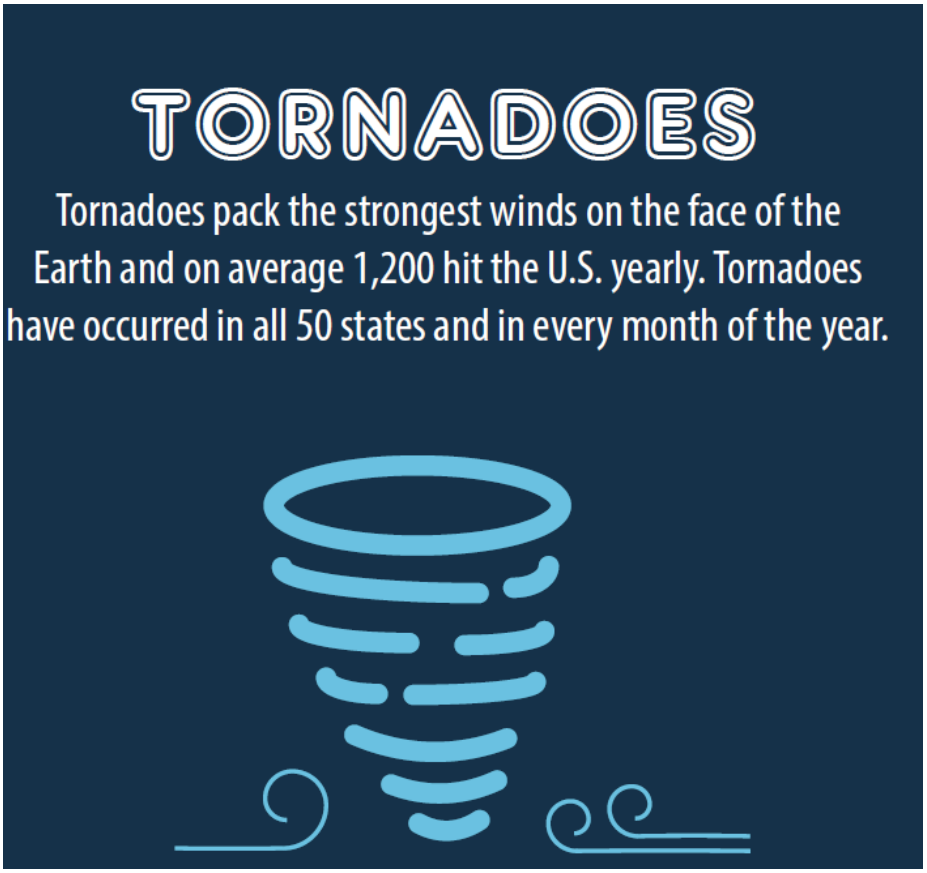
Tornado Watch means be prepared:
A tornado is possible

- ☑ Check for forecast updates
- ☑ Plan where to take shelter if needed
- ☑ Stay weather ready

Tornado Warning means take action!
A tornado is expected

- ☑ Take shelter indoors immediately
- ☑ If driving find the nearest shelter
- ☑ Check forecast updates
- ☑ Stay weather ready

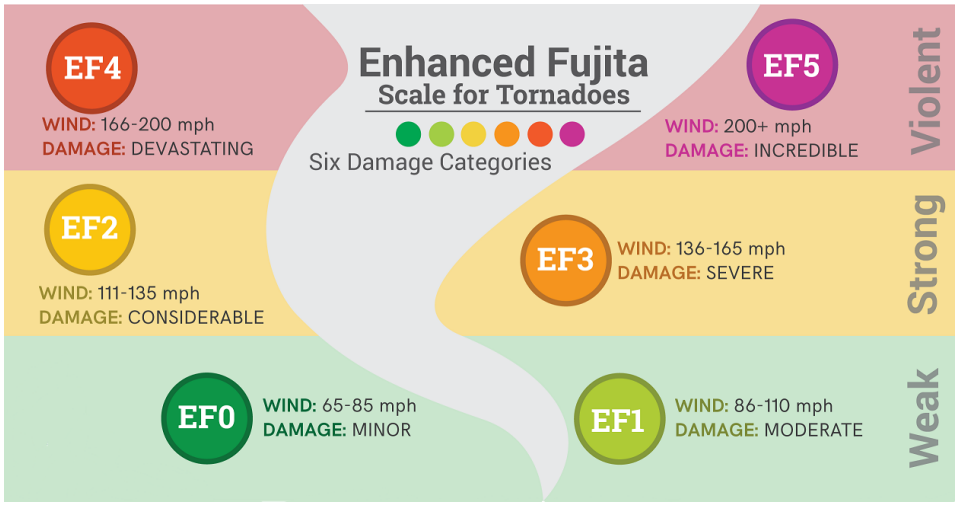




A tornado that struck Great Bend, Kansas in 1915 had driven wooden splinters into an iron fire hydrant. Imagine that, wooden splinters driven into a cast iron fire hydrant!

The longest single tornado on the ground in history was the Tri-State Tornado. It traveled for 235 miles for over 3 hours before dissipating, with winds reaching near 300 miles per hour.

How Are Tornadoes Rated?



The Enhanced Fujita Scale or EF Scale, which became operational on February 1, 2007, is used to assign a tornado a 'rating' based on estimated wind speeds and related damage. When tornado-related damage is surveyed, it is compared to a list of Damage Indicators (DIs) and Degrees of Damage (DoD) which help estimate better the range of wind speeds the tornado likely produced. From that, a rating (from EF0 to EF5) is assigned.

The EF Scale was revised from the original Fujita Scale to reflect better examinations of tornado damage surveys so as to align wind speeds more closely with associated storm damage. The new scale has to do with how most structures are designed.

The NWS is the only federal agency with authority to provide 'official' tornado EF Scale ratings. The goal is assign an EF Scale category based on the highest wind speed that occurred within the damage path. First, trained NWS personnel will identify the appropriate damage indicator (DI) from more than one of the 28 used in rating the damage. The construction or description of a building should match the DI being considered, and the observed damage should match one of the degrees of damage (DOD) used by the scale. The tornado evaluator will then make a judgment within the range of upper and lower bound wind speeds, as to whether the wind speed to cause the damage is higher or lower than the expected value for the particular DOD. This is done for several structures not just one, before a final EF rating is determined.

How to Report Severe Weather

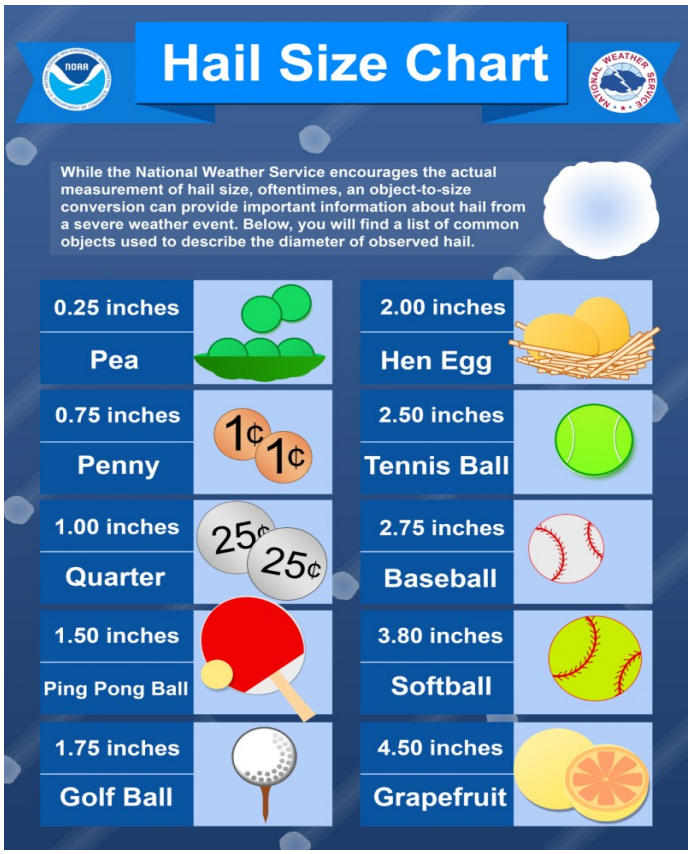
There are a variety of ways to report weather to the NWS office in Springfield, MO. You can use any/all of these to reach us. Below the contact info are the types of information we'd like you to report. Please be sure to include the location of the weather event, e.g. 5 miles northwest of Branson. You may also indicate if you are a trained spotter, a ham radio operator, a member of law enforcement, or other affiliation if applicable.

Facebook
Post information on our Facebook page:
https://www.facebook.com/NWSSpringfield

Twitter
Send us a tweet:
@NWSSpringfield

Email
Send us a email:
contact.sgf@noaa.gov

Mobile App
Send reports from your location via smartphone:
MPing



Make a plan today. Your family may not be together if a disaster strikes, so it is important to know which types of disasters could affect your area. Know how you'll contact one another and reconnect if separated. Establish a family meeting place that's familiar and easy to find.

Step 1: Put together a plan by discussing these 4 questions with your family, friends, or household to start your emergency plan.

How will I receive emergency alerts and warnings? What is my shelter plan? What is my evacuation route? What is my family/household communication plan?

Step 2: Consider specific needs in your household.

As you prepare, tailor your plans and supplies to your specific daily living needs and responsibilities. Discuss your needs and responsibilities and how people in the network can assist each other with communication, care of children, business, pets, or specific needs like the operation of durable medical equipment. Create your own personal network for specific areas where you need assistance. Keep in mind some these factors when developing your plan:

Step 3: Fill out a Family Emergency Plan

Download and fill out a family emergency plan or use them as a guide to create your own. Emergency Plan for Parents

Step 4: Practice your plan with your family/household

Timely delivery of National Weather Service (NWS) weather warnings issued by our offices across the nation is critical to the NWS' mission of the protection of life and property. It is very important that you are able to receive warnings and weather information at home and at work. Two of the most effective ways you get can warning information directly from the National Weather Service are through Wireless Emergency Alerts on your mobile phone, and on NOAA Weather Radio.

Building a Weather-Ready Nation

Regional NWS Office's Contact Information

Website

NWS Offices	Telephone #	Website
Springfield, MO	417-869-4491	weather.gov/springfield
Kanasas City, MO	816-540-6021	weather.gov/kansascity
St. Louis, MO	636-441-8467	weather.gov/stlouis
Paducah, KY	270-744-6440	weather.gov/paducah
Tulsa, OK	918-838-7838	weather.gov/tulsa
Wichita, KS	316-942-3102	weather.gov/wichita
Little Rock, AR	501-834-0308	weather.gov/littlerock